

OFFICE OF JURY COMMISSIONER

for the Commonwealth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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For more information, contact:

Pamela J. Wood, Jury Commissioner
(617) 422-5860, ext. 202

JURY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON REVISED CONFIDENTIAL JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

The Jury Management Advisory Committee (JMAC), a standing committee of the Supreme Judicial court, has made extensive revisions to the Confidential Juror Questionnaire that is completed by all prospective jurors before they report to a courtroom for impanelment. The JMAC is seeking public comment on the revisions prior to implementing the new Questionnaire as part of the Office of Jury Commissioner's state-wide technological upgrade that is set to commence in the jury courts of the Commonwealth.

The current proposal was developed by the JMAC based in part on comments received from judges, bar associations, law enforcement agencies, legal organizations, attorneys and jurors. Superior Court Judge Nonnie S. Burnes, chair of the JMAC, noted: "The new Confidential Juror Questionnaire will elicit substantially more detailed information that is relevant to the respondent's potential jury service, while maintaining an appropriate level of privacy for the juror." Jury Commissioner Pamela J. Wood commented: "Our goal was to make the Questionnaire more understandable, informative to the court and the parties, and generally user-friendly. At the same time, we needed to maintain the one-page format, which enables the jury process to operate as efficiently and expeditiously as possible."

The JMAC hopes to introduce the new questionnaire early next year, when the Office of Jury Commissioner begins a district-by-district implementation of an improved jury management software and hardware system. The new system includes enhancements such as bar-code scanning of jurors to speed the check-in process and move jurors from

jury pool to courtrooms and back more quickly; automation of many of the manual operations that currently slow the process; improved tracking of demographic data to ensure representative jury pools; and enhanced reporting capabilities to assist in the tracking of trends. An interactive juror website will be introduced during the next phase of the implementation, allowing jurors to go on-line to postpone their service, request a disqualification, complete the mandatory demographic survey, and get directions to the courthouse. The new Confidential Juror Questionnaire will be available for download on the website as well.

The proposed revision is posted on the OJC's home page at www.massjury.com. Comments on the proposed revision can be directed to JMAC CJQ Review, Office of Jury Commissioner, 560 Harrison Avenue, Suite 600, Boston, Massachusetts 02118, or faxed to (617) 422-5869, or e-mailed to massjury@jud.state.ma.us. The JMAC requests that comments be submitted on or before December 16, 2005.

CONFIDENTIAL JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

You are required by law to complete and sign this form, which is not a public record and will be destroyed by the court as soon as practicable after you are excused. Answer all questions, even if the answer is "none." Complete answers help ensure selection of fair and impartial juries.

PRINT THIS FORM IN BLACK INK AND BRING IT WITH YOU WHEN YOU APPEAR FOR JURY DUTY.
YOU MUST BE A CITIZEN, UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, AND BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO SERVE.

YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name _____ ☐ Female ☐ Male

City/State _____ Zip Code _____ Place of Birth _____ Age _____

EDUCATION: Highest grade completed in school? _____

CURRENT OR PAST WORK AND/OR SCHOOL:

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At home | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Current Employer (or Last Employer if not currently employed) _____

Type of Business _____

Your Job _____

HOUSEHOLD: Your Status (check one)

- ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Domestic Partner ☐ Separated ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Are you a parent or guardian of any children? ☐ No ☐ Yes: Please list their ages _____

YOUR SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER

Name _____ Age _____

EDUCATION: Highest grade he/she completed in school? _____

CURRENT OR PAST WORK AND/OR SCHOOL:

(Check all that apply to him/her)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At home | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Current Employer (or Last Employer if not currently employed) _____

Type of Business _____

His/her Job _____

YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE LAW

Have you or anyone in your family ever had any of the following experiences with the law? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been arrested or charged with a crime? | <input type="checkbox"/> Been convicted of a crime? | <input type="checkbox"/> Been a crime victim? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been served with a court order? | <input type="checkbox"/> Sought a court order (restraining order, stay-away order, injunction, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been a witness in a civil/criminal case? | <input type="checkbox"/> Been seated on a jury? | <input type="checkbox"/> Been sued? <input type="checkbox"/> Filed a lawsuit? |

If so, describe: _____

Have you or anyone in your family ever worked for any of the following? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement agency? | <input type="checkbox"/> Court system? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections/detention system? | <input type="checkbox"/> Other law-related employer? |

If so, describe: _____

Is there anything else in your background, experience, employment, training, education, knowledge, or beliefs that might affect your ability to be a fair and impartial juror?

If so, describe: _____

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JUROR'S DECLARATION: I certify that the information I have supplied on this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a willful misrepresentation or omission of a material fact on this form is a crime, which may be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,000 upon conviction.

Signature (Do Not Print) _____

Date _____